

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDA FOR SECRETARY BERGLAND AND FAS/US-USSR SECRETARIAT/
G&F/NOVOTNY

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGSL OVIP (SECRETARY BERGLAND), EPAP, UR, US
SUBJECT: VISIT BY SECRETARY BERGLAND TO USSR - MINISTER
OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV CRITICAL OF GRAIN AGREEMENT

SUMMARY; AMBASSADOR CONVEYED TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
PATOLICHEV REQUEST THAT HE MEET WITH SECRETARY OF AGRIC-
ULTURE BERGLAND DURING LATTER'S TRIP TO USSR. PATOLICHEV
INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD MEET SECRETARY BERGLAND
ON MAY 16. HE EXPRESSED CRITICISM OF CLAUSE OF GRAIN
AGREEMENT REQUIRING USSR TO ASK PERMISSION OF USG TO MAKE
PURCHASES BEYOND EIGHT MILLION TONS, ASSERTING THAT THIS
WAS NOT IN US INTEREST AND ALSO STRENGTHENED PRESSURE ON
USSR TO ACHIEVE AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV
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APRIL 6 (SEPTTEL), AMBASSADOR INFORMED THE MINISTER THAT
SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL BE VISITING USSR MAY 7-16 AND WOULD
LIKE TO MEET WITH PATOLICHEV ON MAY 8 OR 15-16. AMBASSADOR
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MINISTER PATOLICHEV MIGHT BE ABLE TO
ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO PERMIT SUCH A MEETING. THE
MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE
ON THE EIGHTH, DUE TO POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT BE ASKED

TO ACCOMPANY BREZHNEV TO FRG. (HE WAS NOT SURE, HE SAID, SINCE IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE AGENDA FOR BONN, BUT HE NOTED FRG IS LEADING TRADE PARTNER FOR USSR AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES.) THE AMBASSADOR URGED THAT PATOLICHEV ASK HIS STAFF TO CHECK WITH THAT OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MESYETS TO SEE IF THE MAY 15-16 DATES WOULD BE POSSIBLE. PATOLICHEV SAID HE THOUGHT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR A MEETING ON THE LAST DATE.

2. NOTING THAT HE HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SECRETARY BERGLAND, MINISTER PATOLICHEV SAID THAT HE WOULD TELL MR. BERGLAND WHAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY BLUMENTHAL: THE TERMS OF THE CURRENT GRAIN AGREEMENT STIPULATE THAT THE USSR WILL BUY SIX MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ANNUALLY; IF MORE THAN EIGHT IS NEEDED BY THE USSR, IT IS NECESSARY TO SEND A REQUEST TO THE USG. HE HAD TOLD BLUMENTHAL AND WOULD SAY TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE THAT "YOU'VE DONE IT AGAINST YOUR OWN BEST INTERESTS." WHAT GOVERNMENT WOULD RESORT TO ASKING FOR GRAIN, HE INQUIRED? IF WE NEED FIVE MILLION TONS MORE, HE CONTINUED, WE WILL BUY IT. FOR EMPHASIS PATOLICHEV SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN PREPARED AT THE VERY TABLE AT WHICH THE AMBASSADOR WAS SITTING. (FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY) ROBINSON HAD BEEN THERE, HE SAID, AND HE HAD LATER MET ROBINSON AGAIN, BUT HE WOULD LET THE LATTER TELL THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THAT. "I HAVE THE RECORDS,"
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PATOLICHEV SAID. PLEASE LOOK AT THAT, HE ADDED, REITERATING THAT THE US HAD ACTED AGAINST ITS OWN INTERESTS. HE HAS HEARD THAT THE USG NOW WILL BE PAYING AMERICAN FARMERS NOT TO PRODUCE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS LAST POINT WAS A VERY CONTROVERSIAL ONE IN WASHINGTON RIGHT NOW. THE MINISTER HAD BETTER TALK TO SECRETARY BERGLAND ABOUT IT, HE SAID. PATOLICHEV REPLIED: "I'LL TALK TO ANYBODY." HE HAD TESTED HIS POSITION AND WAS CONVINCED THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED AS DID THE USG, HAD HE BEEN IN ITS PLACE. THE AMBASSADOR INQUIRED IF PATOLICHEV MEANT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED THE GRAIN AGREEMENT OR THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED THE ADDITIONAL PURCHASE CLAUSE. PATOLICHEV RESPONDED THAT IT WAS THE LATTER HE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED. THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN SELLING GRAIN BUT LIMITED ITSELF TO SIX TO EIGHT MILLION TONS. THE SOVIET UNION WAS COMPELLED BY THIS AGREEMENT, HE SAID, TO DEVOTE EVEN GREATER EFFORTS TO THE PURSUIT OF AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY SO AS TO GET FREE OF THIS OBLIGATION TO ASK. PATOLICHEV REITERATED THAT HE HAD SAID ALL OF THIS TO SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND WOULD DO THE SAME TO SECRETARY

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